

ACT 238

H. B. 833.

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health Insurance, Health Plans and Public Assistance Programs: Providing for Insuring Public Freedom of Choice of Practitioner and Profession when Visual Care Coverage is Included in Insurance Policies, Medical, Hospital and Health Service Plans and Public Assistance Programs.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of any individual or group policy, contract, plan or agreement of accident and/or health insurance or any provisions of a policy, contract, plan or agreement for medical, hospital or health service or indemnity, whenever such policy, contract, plan or agreement provides for reimbursement for any visual or optometric service which is within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed optometrist, the person entitled to benefits, or a person performing services, under such policy, contract, plan or agreement shall be entitled to reimbursement whether said

service is performed by a licensed physician or by licensed optometrist. Visual or optometric services shall include eye and/or visual examination or a correction of any visual or muscular anomaly and the supplying of ophthalmic materials, including contact lenses, and subnormal vision aids. Unless such policy, contract, plan or agreement shall otherwise provide, there shall be no reimbursement for ophthalmic materials, lenses, contact lenses, spectacles, eye-glasses, and/or appurtenances thereto.

SECTION 2. Whenever visual or optometric services within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed optometrist are included in any program, financed with public funds or administered by any public agency, for aid to the indigent, the aged, the legally blind, or any other group or class, the recipient of such aid shall be entitled to choose whether such services are to be performed by a duly licensed physician or by a duly licensed optometrist. Visual or optometric services as used herein shall include eye and/or visual examination or a correction of any vision or muscular anomaly and the supplying of ophthalmic materials, including contact lenses and subnormal vision aids.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved June 6, 1967.)